

The Daily Gazetteer.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1745.

Conclusion of the Account of the Mines of Almaden.



Economically, By observing the Soil which the Miners open to pull up the Rock, even in those Places where the Vein is richest, I could not perceive that they find those Quantities of running Mercury which are commonly imagined; and if there sometimes appear a few Ounces, it is in Consequence of the violent Strokes which the Miners give upon the Rock with their Iron Instruments, of the Heat and Explosion of the Gunpowder whereon they sometimes storm the Mines.

Thirdly, Enquiring whether there might not be Minerals of some other Species in these Mines, according to the Notion of some Chemists, who hold Mercury the Principle of Metals, I learned, that no other Kind had ever yet been observed; nor could I find any by my own Search.

My Fourth Observation relates to the manner of separating Mercury from Cinnabar, which has something very different from the Spaniards Practice in Peru, and has scarce any Thing uncommon with that used by the Indians in the Mines of Frisia; for at Guancavelica, a celebrated Quicksilver Mine in Peru, the Operation is performed in little Furnaces; which obliges the Workmen to cool the Alude's by a Quantity of Water placed within Side thereof; as also by sprinkling the Outside, during the Operation, in order the better to condense the Mercurial Vapours; whereas, at Almaden, it is the lengthening the Line of these Aludes, by continuing them from one End of the Terras to the other, that is the Office of Refrigeration.

As to the Method in the Mines of Frisia, it is more costly, yields less, and takes up more Time, and more Number of Workmen, than either of them, on account of the great Number of Lotions which the Miners Cinnabar undergoes, in order to separate the Mercury therefrom, by its Weight, before they put the Cinnabar, according to the Method of that Country, in Ovens: Whereas, at Almaden, three Men, in the Space of three Days, and at a very moderate Charge, will go through a Coction, which produces 3000 Weight of Mercury.

Another Advantage in the Operation of Almaden, is in succeeding without any foreign Addition, nor even the use of Iron Filings, which are commonly used anywhere else, in order to revivify the Mercury lost of its Quantity, which the Spaniards obtain at Almaden by the Mixture of Stone and Earth wherein the Ore is inclos'd; which serve to retain the impure Parts of the Mercury, at an easier Expence than Filings do in the Retort.

Nor did it seem of less Importance to observe what the Mercurial Vapours might have both on the bodies of Men employ'd in working the Mines, and on the Bodies which happen to come within their Attire, and the common Prejudice entertained against these Vapours, made me double my Attention. But I found, in fine, that this Opinion ought to be rank'd among the Number of popular Errors; since, so far is the Earth over these Mines from being barren, that, on the contrary, they are very fertile in Grain, and other Kinds of Plants, which, whilst, do not partake the least of any scienical Malignity, supposed to be in the Mercury, wherewith the Mountain abounds. Besides that, the Springs on the Northern Descent of the Mountain are Water which the Country People drink without Inconveniencie.

The Smoke itself, which in the Time of the Operation, made it most noxious, evaporates thro' the Chimneys of the Buildings near the Furnaces, and whose Effect were more apprehended within the Comparts of the Earth, than over, does not occasion the least Alteration on neighbouring Trees, nor is at all felt by the Inhabitants of the Town who live nearest the Furnaces. The true, native Cinnabar given inwardly, sometimes affects very different from what were expected; following Year's, Grips, &c. But these Symptoms are owing to the want of Discretion, in chusing a Cinnabar, like that of the first Vein above described; wherein the Mixture of vitriolick Parts, in lieu of those of the second and third Veins, which I have observed are pure. As to the Accidents which frequently happen upon the Place where the Miners are at Work, above, that they are often deceived in attributing them, rather to a Vapour arising from this particular

Kind of Ore, than to that of any other Place where no metallic Ore is found; for going down the same Winter into other subterraneous Places, especially the Quarries of St. Zen de Ceran, near Chantilly, which go very deep under Ground, I was surprized at a good Distance with a very sour Smell, which only arose from the Sweat of the Men employ'd therein; and withal, found a Difficulty of Respiration; as also, Pains in my Limbs, much like those wherewith I found myself seized in the Mines of Almaden; but I was convinc'd, at the same time, that those different Sensations were the necessary Effects of too hasty Transitions usual in such Places, from a hot Air into a cold one, and from a dry to a moist one; since, as I have already observed towards the beginning of this Memoir, there are some Places in them so hot, that they serve as Stoves to the Rheumatick People, that come there to sweat. Another common Error, touching the Cause of the Diseases of those who work in the Mercury Mines, is, that they imagine it owing to the continual Inspiration of the Vapours exhaling from it. This Prejudice may be removed, by comparing the State of the Miners at Almaden, who work voluntarily, with that of the Slaves, who are forced to it: The former, by the Care they take in returning from the Mines, to change all their working Cloaths from Top to Toe, and their Shoes especially, preserve themselves in good Health, and attain to the same Age as other Men; whereas the poor Slaves, being unable to shift their Cloaths, and being even obliged to take their Meals in the Mines themselves, where they handle their Victuals without washing, are liable to Tumours of the Parotides, Apothe, Salivary, and Pustules, all over their whole Body; all which are evidently the Effects of the immediate Contact, or rather, Admission of the Mercurial Particles into the Pores of the Skin, as in the Case of Mercurial Remedies.

The Method used by the Physicians of Almaden, is very different from what we commonly practice on the like Occasion; which is, to recur to Purgatives and Bleeding; the whole Cure is effected by exposing the Patient to the open Air, and administering some simple Absorbent, as burnt Hartshorn, Ivory, Crabs Eyes, or the like. And what is most remarkable in this Cure is, that it succeeds almost universally in all sober abstemious Persons; whereas they who are given to drinking, die without resource. As to the Slaves, &c. which at their coming into the Mines were touch'd with any Venereal Disorder, they frequently find their Cure therein.

It is Nastiness; therefore with Excess in drinking, and the continual Contact of Mercury, that, in a length of Years, occasion those Tremors wherewith the Workmen are seized; which, however, are not constant, but grow more or less sensible, as they are more or less seized with the Motions of Fear or Surprise; the sad Effects of a Detention of the Blood in the Vessels of the Brain, when render'd varicous by the Weight of certain Particles of Mercury lodg'd therein, which equally befalls those who have taken Mercury unseasonably, or in too great Quantity.

H O M E P O R T.

Deal, June 26. Wind S. W. Remain the Shoreham, Duke, and Assistance Men of War, the Durlly and Sandwich Privateers, with the rest of the Outward-bound, as per last. Arriv'd this Morning the Barfleur Man of War, from Portsmouth, and is sail'd for the River.

Arrived.

At Youghall, the Norwich, Chipp, from Bridgewater.

L O N D O N.

Letters from Hamburgh speak very positively of the March of the Russians; but they write from Peterburgh, that this will depend on the Conduct of his Prussian Majesty.

From Frankfort all our Letters agree, that in a few Days the French must either fight the Allies, or repass the Rhine, and evacuate Germany entirely.

Our latest Advices from Flanders assure us, Field-Marshal Count Konigsegg, who was confin'd to his Bed by the Gout, is perfectly recovered.

Last Wednesday the Son of Mr. Bathrup (about Nine Years of Age) a Brewer in Church-Street, Hackney, fell into the Clay-Pit in Church Field, and was drown'd.

The Forces intended for Anapoli Royal will embark next Week on board the three Transports at Gravesend, who are to proceed under a strong Convoy for that Place.

Yesterday Counsellor Egerton of Lincoln's-Inn, was married to Miss Maithouse of Lincoln's-Inn Fields; a young Lady with a handsome Fortune.

Days appointed for holding the Assizes for the following Circuits; viz.

H O M E.

Lord Chief Justice Lee,

Mr. Justice Burnett.

Hertford. Monday, July 29, at Hertford.

Essex. Wednesday, ditto 31, at Chelmsford.

Kent. Monday, August 5, at Rochester.

Sussex. Saturday, ditto 10, at Lewes.

Surrey. Thursday, ditto 15, at Kingston upon Thames.

O X F O R D.

Lord Chief Justice Willes,

Mr. Justice Abney.

Berks. Monday, July 22, at Abingdon.

Oxon. Wednesday, ditto 24, at Oxford.

Gloucester. Saturday, ditto 27, at Gloucester.

City of Gloucester. The same Day, at the City of Gloucester.

Monmouth. Thursday, August 1, at Monmouth.

Hereford. Saturday, ditto 3, at Hereford.

Salop. Thursday, ditto 8, at Shrewsbury.

Stafford. Tuesday, ditto 13, at Stafford.

Worcester. Saturday, ditto 17, at Worcester.

City of Worcester. The same Day, at the City of Worcester.

M I D L A N D.

Lord Chief Baron Parker,

Mr. Justice Dennison.

Northampton. Tuesday, July 23, at Abingdon.

Rutland. Friday, ditto 26, at Oakham.

Lincoln. Monday, ditto 29, at the Castle of Lincoln.

City of Lincoln. The same Day at the City of Lincoln.

Nottingham. Thursday, August 1, at Nottingham.

Town of Nottingham, Friday, ditto 2, at the Town of Nottingham.

Derby. Saturday, ditto 3, at Derby.

Leicester. Wednesday, ditto 7, at Leicester.

Borough of Leicester. Thursday, ditto 8, at the Borough of Leicester.

City of Coventry. Saturday, ditto 10, at the City of Coventry.

Warwick. The same Day at Warwick.

Last Wednesday the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury appointed Theophilus Lane, Esq; to be Receiver-General of the Land Tax for the County of Hereford, in the room of Robert Clayton, Esq; lately deceased.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London-Bridge, 5 10 03	10 03	10 39

Bank Stock, 147. India, 186 1-half. South Sea, 109 3-4ths. Old Annuity, 141 1-half. New ditto, Nothing done. Three per Cent. Nothing done. Ditto 1743, 92 7-8ths. Ditto 1744, 91 7-8ths. Ditto 1745, 91 1-8th. Seven per Cent. Loan, Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Royal Assurance, Nothing done. London Assurance, 11 1-8th. India Bonds, 1 1. 16s. to 17s. Bank Circulation, 5 l. 10 s. Salt Taliis, Nothing done. Ditto 1745, 1 7-8ths to a Discount. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, Nothing done. Three per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Annuities for Lives, 15 Years, 1-8th the Purchase. Million Bank, 114 1-half. Equivalent, Nothing done. Tickets, 10 l. 19 s. 6 d.

Lottery-Office, June 22, 1745.

THE Managers for exchanging Tickets in the Lottery 1744, for Certificates, give Notice, That they are upon the Point of closing their Commission for that Work: Therefore all Persons possesse of Tickets in the said Lottery, not yet entered for Certificates, are desired to hasten the entering thereof, for that the Commission being once closed, the obtaining of Certificates for Tickets that shall be then unentered, will be attended with Trouble and Charge, which the Proprietors may avoid, by bringing their Tickets to be entered in Time.

By Order of the said Managers,

Thomas Jones.

This Day is Published,

(Price 5 xpence)

THE Discarded FAIR-ONE. An Heroic Epistle from HAMILLA to CESAR.

Repulse upon Repulse with Grief the boy, Yet still infirmer, rejoy'd to hazard more.

Let my past Services, said she, entreat,

And do, do not think me useless yet.

Printed for M. Cooper, at the Globe in Paternoster Row.

